



A47 Wansford to Sutton Dualling

Scheme Number: TR010039

**Volume 8**  
**8.16 Statement of Common Ground with**  
**Sutton Parish Council**

Rule 8(1)(e)

Planning Act 2008

Infrastructure Planning (Applications: Prescribed  
Forms and Procedure) Regulations 2009

May 2022

Infrastructure Planning

Planning Act 2008

**The Infrastructure Planning  
(Applications: Prescribed Forms and  
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**A47 Wansford to Sutton Dualling  
Development Consent Order 202[x]**

**8.16 STATEMENT OF COMMON GROUND WITH  
SUTTON PARISH COUNCIL**

|   |   |
|---|---|
| <b>Regulation Number:</b>                     | Rule 8(1)(e)  |
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### STATEMENT OF COMMON GROUND

This statement of Common Ground has been prepared and agreed by (1) National Highways Company Limited and (2) Sutton Parish Council



Signed: .....

Chris Griffin  
Programme Leader  
On behalf of National Highways

Date: 25/05/2022



Signed:  
Michael Grange  
On behalf of Sutton Parish Council

Date: 19/05/2022

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## 1 INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Purpose of this Document

1.1.1 This Statement of Common Ground (SoCG) relates to an application made by National Highways ("the Applicant") to the Planning Inspectorate ("PINS") under Section 37 of the Planning Act 2008 ("PA 2008") for a Development Consent Order (a "DCO"). If made the DCO would grant consent for the Applicant to undertake the A47 Wansford to Sutton Scheme ("the Scheme"). A detailed description of the Scheme can be found in the Environmental Statement (ES) Chapter 2 The Proposed Scheme (**REP2-008**).

1.1.2 This SoCG does not seek to replicate information which is available elsewhere within the Application documents. All documents are available on the Planning Inspectorate website.

<https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/projects/eastern/a47-wansford-to-sutton/?ipcsection=overview>

1.1.3 The SoCG has been produced to confirm to the Examining Authority where agreement has been reached between the parties to it, and where agreement has not (yet) been reached. The ExA has received extensive written and oral submissions on the issues relevant to the parties, and is well aware of the parties' positions. However, the parties consider that this SoCG remains a useful aide memoire as to the issues between them, and a record of where agreement has been reached, which may assist the ExA.

1.1.1 For the ExA's convenience, the Parties have prepared a table at Annex A which provides an easy reference to the various submissions made by the Parties at Deadlines 1 to 6 on the issues between them.

### 1.2 Parties to this Statement of Common Ground

1.2.1 This SoCG has been prepared by (1) National Highways as the Applicant and (2) Sutton Parish Council.

### 1.3 Format of this SoCG

1.3.1 Section 3 of this SoCG and the tables within it summarises the Parties' positions on issues which have been agreed and issues which are outstanding.

1.3.2 In relation to those issues not agreed, the SoCG seeks to define the issues remaining in a succinct and neutral manner with the intention of assisting the ExA in addressing the Parties' respective positions on them in his report.

1.3.3 Highways England became the Government-owned Strategic Highways Company on 1 April 2015. In September 2021 Highways England Company Limited changed its name to National Highways Limited. National Highways is the highway authority in England for the strategic road network and has the necessary powers and duties to operate, manage, maintain and enhance the network. Regulatory powers remain with the Secretary of State. The legislation establishing National Highways made provision for all legal rights and obligations of the Highways Agency, including in respect of the Application, to be conferred upon or assumed by National Highways.

## 2 RECORD OF ENGAGEMENT

- 2.1.1 A summary of the meetings and correspondence that has taken place between National Highways and Sutton Parish Council in relation to the Application is outlined in Table 2-1.

Table 2-1: Record Of Engagement

| Date       | Form of Correspondence:                 | Key topics discussed  |
|------------|---|---|
| 25/04/2022 | MS Teams Meeting                        | Meeting to discuss draft SoCG   |
| 08/04/2022 | MS Teams Meeting                        | Meeting to discuss draft SoCG   |
| 11/03/2021 | Email                                   | Biodiversity - Request consultation on HRA  |
| 04/02/2021 | MS Teams Meeting                        | Project Update – Wansford, Stibbington and Sutton Parish Councils   |
| 21/07/2020 | MS Teams Meeting                        | Update on revised Design and latest proposals   |
| 05/02/2020 | MS Teams Meeting                        | Discuss outcomes of Scheduled Monument with Historic England, Wansford and Sutton Parish Councils             |
| 19/09/2018 | Letter to Parish Council                | To inform of change in Project Manager and provide an update with next steps following Statutory Consultation |
| 20/09/2018 | Face to Face Haycock Hotel              | Statutory Consultation Update Sutton and Wansford Parish Councils   |
| 20/08/2018 | Face to Face meeting Haycock hotel      | Environment Archaeology and Junction design with Sutton and Wansford Parish                                   |
| 11/06/2018 | Face to Face Meeting Haycock Hotel      | Update on latest designs and proposals – Wansford and Sutton Parish<br>Environment, archaeology update        |
| 04/05/2018 | Open Floor Meeting at the Haycock Hotel | Traffic Design meeting with Wansford and Sutton along with the Environment and Archaeology                    |
| 04/05/2018 | Open floor Meeting at the Haycock Hotel | Walkers, Cyclists and Horse riders update on scheme   |
| 19/03/2018 | Meeting at St Mary's Church, Wansford   | Project Discussion – Sutton and Wansford Parish Councils  |
| 19/09/2017 | Meeting at Sutton Church                | Project Discussion - Sutton PC, Wansford PC and local residents   |

- 2.1.2 It is agreed that this is an accurate record of the key meetings and consultation undertaken between (1) National Highways and (2) Sutton Parish Council in relation to the issues addressed in this SoCG.

### 3 ISSUES

3.1.1 This section summarised the key issues explored between National Highways and Sutton Parish Council.

3.1.2 This summary is based on the key issues raised by Sutton Parish Council over the course of the Examination, and the various documents are detailed in Annex A.

#### Matters Agreed Between the Parties

3.1.3 The Parties are agreed in principle in respect of the following issues set out in Table 3-1 below

Table 3-1 Matters Agreed

| Ref No | Issue   | Summary of Agreement  | National Highways Response |
|--------|---|---|----------------------------|
| 1      | Dualling of the A47 between Wansford and Sutton RIR-043 | Sutton Parish Council supports the proposals submitted to Planning Inspector by Highways England (with comments and provisos).<br>The Parish Council support the need to dual this very dangerous section of road.  | Agreed                     |
| 2      | Statement of Common Ground REP3-031                     | Sutton Parish Council and National Highways should have a Statement of Common Ground.   | Agreed                     |
| 3      | The Drift REP3-029                                      | For safety reasons and to reduce the risk of unsocial behaviour, Sutton Parish Council wish The Drift in Sutton to be closed off to through vehicular traffic other than for resident and farm access only. The road would then become a perfect and safe alternative walking, cycling and horse riding (WCHR) route. | Agreed                     |
| 4      | Sutton Conservation Area REP3-032                       | Sutton Parish Council does not consider that the historic interest of the Sutton Conservation Area will be reduced by the closure of the Drift to vehicular traffic.  | Agreed                     |

| Ref No | Issue                            | Summary of Agreement   | National Highways Response |
|--------|----------------------------------|--|----------------------------|
| 5      | WCHR<br>RR-043<br>REP3-029       | National Highways proposals provide major WCHR route improvements east to west.<br>Sutton Parish Council welcome the WCHR provision made adjacent to the new road, under the A1 (with some reservations on the route steepness) and the North/South underpass using the old rail bridge. | Agreed                     |
| 6      | Ongoing consultation<br>REP4-030 | National Highways will continue to consult with Sutton Parish Council on a regular basis during the ongoing development and construction of the scheme   | Agreed                     |

#### Matters Not Agreed Between the Parties

3.1.4 The Parties are not agreed in respect of the following issues set out in Table 3-2 below

Table 3-2 Matters Not Yet Agreed

| Ref No | Issue   | Summary of Disagreement   | National Highways Response   |
|--------|---|---|--|
| 1      | Route alignment and relationship to the Scheduled Monument<br>RR-043<br>REP3-032<br>(ExAQ1.5.6) | The initial route alignment was pre-determined without proper consultation, using only preliminary reports on geology, environment, and construction risks was wrong, wasting public time and funds.<br>Highways England failed to properly engage with Historic England to allow investigation over part of the Scheduled Monument site causing an inferior initial route alignment close to the river and in a County Wildlife site. Local interest brought Historic and Highways England together to create a much more satisfactory alignment and saved an estimated £5-7million.<br>Sutton Parish Council believes more could and should have been done at an earlier stage to encroach further into the monument. | REP1-010 (Common Response H)<br>REP1-010 RR-043-2, RR-043-3, RR-043 (Pages 152 – 153)<br>REP2-035 (Page 70 - 71)<br>REP4-017 (Page 11-12)<br>REP4-018 (Page 6) |



| Ref No | Issue   | Summary of Disagreement   | National Highways Response   |
|--------|---|---|--|
| 2      | <p>Station House<br/>REP3-030<br/>REP3-032<br/>(ExAQ1.4.20)<br/>REP4-031<br/>Email on<br/>SoCG<br/>13/05/2022</p> | <p>The view of the Parish Council is that Historic England could have or could do more in regards to the Scheduled Monument to further alleviate impacts on the County Wildlife Site.</p> <p>Sutton Parish Council believes the demolition of Station House and potential site relocation should keep this historically relevant building within the parish, enabling this village asset to remain within its historical context.</p> <p>Sutton Parish Council strongly supports the views stated by Historic England and Peterborough City Council to maintain the Station House close to the group setting of the Rail Bridge, gates, and Station Masters House as an important local and railway historic asset.</p> <p>Sutton Parish Council believes that any future proposals for Old Station House should be considered as part of the DCO and not a Designated Funds scheme.</p> <p>The NH Project Director gave a long awaited explanation on 13/05/2022 as to the reasoning why a proposal for the building put forward by a resident of Sutton was rejected in favour of that put forward by Nene Valley Railway. Whilst understanding project time limitations and constraints plus his personal assurances that it was a robust process we are still puzzled and insist on a satisfactory explanation as to why decision minutes, selection criteria and scoring have not been made publicly available.</p> <p>We believe key selection criteria was omitted from the process hence our strong disappointment of their decision and disagreement with the selection. A recognised building of historic local importance, as agreed by Historic England and PCC representatives, is being removed and moved from its historic location to another area without full disclosure of the reasoning why, another example of National Highways ignoring a democratically elected body which represents the opinion of local residents.</p> | <p>REP2-035 (Pages 64 - 67)<br/>REP4-017 (Pages 10 - 11)<br/>REP4-018 (ISH3 items 3.4 - 3.7.) (Pages 7 - 9)<br/>REP5-019 (Page 20)</p> |

| Ref No | Issue   | Summary of Disagreement   | National Highways Response   |
|--------|---|---|--|
| 3      | WCHR Improvements<br>RR-043   | <p>An alternative proposal for a community hub, what we intended to use the repositioned Station house for, has been suggested by NH which is acknowledged and with reluctance we are forced to move forward on however, this does not mean we agree with what has happened, the process nor the decision by NH.</p> <p>Although National Highways proposals provide major WCHR route improvements east to west connectivity either crossing or going under the A1 to Wansford remains very unsatisfactory for most users.</p> <p>Sutton Parish Council believes but this is a one time opportunity to make a major difference to all WCHR users. More could be done on the steepness of the WCHR A1 underpass and linking of Bridleways from Upton to the Sacrewell Farm WCHR route which is North of the A47.</p> | <p>REP1-010 RR-043-5, RR-043-6<br/>Pages 153 - 154<br/>REP4-017 (Page 5)<br/>REP4-018 (Page 53)<br/>REP5-019 (Page 21)</p> |
| 4      | WCH Surveys<br>REP3-032   | <p>Sutton Parish Council believes the existing A47 from Sutton Roundabout to Wansford is not only dangerous to vehicles but very high risk for cyclists and horse riders. Any movement analysis therefore only reinforces its negligible usage.</p> <p>Residents in the area should be surveyed as to the potential usage if safe routes were made available.</p>   | <p>REP4-017 (Pages 14 - 16)<br/>REP5-019 (Page 21)</p>   |
| 5      | Connectivity with Castor and Ailsworth<br>RR-043<br>RR3-029<br>REP4-033 | <p>Sutton Parish Council believes the historic WCHR connectivity between Upton to Sutton, Ailsworth, and Castor is being made a much longer route for all users.</p> <p>The Parish Council have put forward proposals for an addition WCHR route under the new dual carriageway in the vicinity of the existing Sutton Roundabout which would maintain the close historic connectivity.</p> <p>If the Upton Road from the existing Sutton roundabout is to be closed then Sutton Parish Council supports the use of Upton Road as a WCHR route with an underpass under the new dual-carriageway.</p>  | <p>REP1-010 RR-043-5 (Pages 153 – 154)<br/>REP4-017 (Page 5)<br/>REP5-019 (Page 21)</p>                                    |

| Summary of Disagreement |  | National Highways Response   |
|-------------------------|--|--|
| Ref No                  | Issue  |  |
|                         | This would be a relatively simple and cost effective way to keep the close historic and services connectivity for Upton to Sutton, Allsworth and Castor. |  |
| 6                       | Access to Upton RR-043 REP3-029  | REP1-010 RR-043-4 (Pages 152 – 153)<br>REP4-017 (Page 5)<br>REP4-018 (Pages 53 – 54) |
| 7                       | Langley Bush Road REP4-035   | REP4-18 (Pages 45-48)  |
| 8                       | Improvements to the Upton Drift and Langley Bush Road REP4-032   | REP4-18 (Page 48)<br>REP5-019 (Page 20)  |
| 9                       | Wansford Western roundabout RR-043   | REP1-010 (RR-043-8 Pages 154-155)  |

| Ref No | Issue                                | Summary of Disagreement  | National Highways Response                     |
|--------|--------------------------------------|--|--|
| 10     | Traffic Modelling<br>REP4-035        | Sutton Parish Council considers there are weakness in the traffic model in relation to the Wansford western roundabout and Langley Bush Road.  | REP4-18 (Pages 36-39)                          |
| 11     | Consultation<br>REP3-032<br>REP4-040 | Sutton Parish Council considers that they should be made direct consultees on all matters of relevance to them as they have the best knowledge on the impacts of the proposed design and any future modification on the local villages<br>They are a Statutory body with elected officials to represent the residents. | REP4-018 (ISH4 item 4.3)<br>REP5-019 (Page 20) |

## **ANNEX A - SUBMISSIONS BY THE PARTIES IN RELATION TO THE ISSUES BETWEEN THEM**

This section summarises the submissions made by the Parties in their representations on the issues between them to the ExA during the Examination.

The issues relate to or are set out within the following documents lodged during the DCO application process: -

- Relevant Representations and Written Representations submitted by Sutton Parish Council and National Highways' responses and further comments on those responses submitted by both parties
- National Highways' and other IPs' responses to ExQ1 and Wansford Parish Council's comments upon them.
- Responses by lodged by both parties in respect of the hearings (ISH 2, ISH 3 and ISH 4)
- Other documents with comments on respective submissions lodged during the Examination process.

The table below sets out in tabular form the references in the Examination Library documents referred to above.

| Ref | Category                 | Sutton Parish Council Submission            | National Highway's Response or Submission        | Follow up Comments by Both Parties   |
|-----|--------------------------|---|--|--|
| 1   | Relevant Representations | RR-043<br>Scheduled Monument                | REP1-010 (RR-043-3Page 153)                      | NH = REP2-035 (Pages 70 - 71)<br>SPC = REP3-032 (ExAQ1.5.6) (Page 62)<br>NH = REP4-017 (Pages 14 - 15)<br>NH = REP4-018 (Page 6) |
| 2   | Relevant Representations | RR-043<br>Route Alignment                   | REP1-010 (RR-043-2 Page 152)                     |  |
| 3   | Relevant Representations | RR-043<br>Engagement with Historic England  | REP1-010 (RR-043-3 Page 153)                     | NH = REP4-017 (Pages 11 - 12)  |
| 4   | Relevant Representations | RR-043<br>Accessibility for Upton residents | REP1-010 (RR-043-4Page 153)                      |  |
| 5   | Relevant Representations | RR-043<br>WCHR                              | REP1-010 (RR-043-5 and RR-043-6 Pages 153 - 154) | SPC = REP3-029<br>NH = REP4-017 (Page 5, 9 and 14 - 15)<br>NH = REP5-019 (Page 21)   |
| 6   | Relevant Representations | RR-043<br>Wansford western roundabout       | REP1-010 (RR-043-7 and RR-043-8 Pages 154 - 155) |  |

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| Ref | Category                             | Sutton Parish Council Submission  | National Highway's Response or Submission | Follow up Comments by Both Parties                    |
|-----|--------------------------------------|---|---|---|
| 4   | Deadline 3 Submission                | REP3-029<br>(Comments for ISH 3 Traffic and Transport)                  | REP4-017 (Page 5)                         | SPC = REP4-034<br>NH = REP5-019 (Page 21)             |
| 5   | Deadline 3 Submission                | REP3-030<br>(Comments for ISH 2 Environmental Matters)                  | REP4-017 (Page 6)                         | SPC = REP4-031<br>NH = REP5-019 (Page 20)             |
| 6   | Deadline 3 Submission                | REP3-031<br>Consultation /SoCGs   | REP4-017 (Pages 7 – 8, Page 12)           | SPC = REP4-030<br>NH= REP5-019 (Page 20)              |
| 7   | Responses to ExA FWQ                 | REP3-032<br>Upton Drift   | REP4-017 (Pages 8 - 15)                   | NH = REP4-018 (Page 6)<br>SPC = REP6-012 and REP6-013 |
| 8   | Deadline 4 Submission                | REP4-029<br>David Longfoot Comments                                     | REP5-019 (Page 19)                        |   |
| 9   | ISH Post Hearing Submission (Part 1) | REP4-030<br>Consultation  | REP5-019 (Page 20)                        |   |
| 10  | ISH Post Hearing Submission (Part 2) | REP4-031<br>Station House   | REP5-019 (Page 20)                        |   |
| 11  | ISH Post Hearing Submission (Part 3) | REP3-032<br>PCC and NH Commitments re Upton Drift and Langley Bush Road | REP5-019 (Page 20)                        |   |
| 12  | ISH Post Hearing Submission (Part 4) | REP4-033<br>WCHR  | REP5-019 (Page 21)                        |   |

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| Ref | Category                             | Sutton Parish Council Submission                          | National Highway's Response or Submission | Follow up Comments by Both Parties |
|-----|--------------------------------------|---|---|------------------------------------|
| 13  | ISH Post Hearing Submission (Part 5) | REP4-034<br>WCHR - A1 underpass                           | REP5-019 (Page 21)                        |                                    |
| 14  | ISH Post Hearing Submission (Part 6) | REP4-035<br>Traffic modelling                             | REP5-019 (Page 21)                        |                                    |
|     | Deadline 6 Submission                | REP6-012<br>REP6-013<br>Minutes of parish Council Meeting |   |                                    |